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**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/068,706

Examiner

Jean B. Jeanglaude

Applicant(s)

KIKUCHI ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02-05-02.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Jean Bruner Jeanglaude*  
 Jean Bruner Jeanglaude  
 Primary Examiner

### **Reasons For Allowance**

Claims 1 - 26 are allowable.

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: in combination with other limitations of the claims the prior arts made of record fail to suggest a data stream generation apparatus and method that comprises a data adding means for generating adjustment data having a data length of a difference between a data length of a feedback data and a data length of a whole multiple of a predetermined unit data length when an input data is the predetermined data and adding the same to a tail bit side of the feedback data; and a data coupling means for coupling the header bit of the input data to the tail bit side of the feedback data and supplying the coupled data as a not yet output data to a data outputting means. Moreover, in combination with other limitations of the claims the prior arts made of record fail to suggest a data stream generation apparatus and method that comprises a data adding means for generating adjustment data having a data length of a difference between a sum of data lengths of an input data and a feedback data and the data length of a whole multiple of a predetermined unit data length and adding the same to a header bit side of the input predetermined data; a data selecting means for selecting predetermined data with the adjustment data added thereto or other input data in accordance with a supplied selection signal; and a data coupling means for coupling the header bit of the selected input data to the tail bit side of the feedback data and supplying the coupled data as a not yet output data to a data outputting means. Furthermore, in combination with other limitations of the claims the prior arts made of record fail to suggest a variable length

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encoded data stream generation apparatus and method [a camera system] for sequentially generating variable length encoded data or predetermined control data, sequentially coupling predetermined header bits of the generated data to the tail bit side of previously generated data, and sequentially outputting data of a predetermined data length from said header bit side of said coupled data, the variable length encoded data stream generation apparatus comprising a data adding means for generating adjustment data having a data length of a difference between the data length of a feedback data and the data length of a whole multiple of a predetermined unit data length when the generated data of the variable length encoding means is a control data and adding the same to a tail bit side of the feedback data; and a data coupling means for coupling a header bit of the generated data of the variable length encoding means to said a bit side of the feedback data and supplying the coupled data as said not yet output data to a data outputting means. In addition, the prior arts made of record, in combination with other limitations of the claims, fail to suggest a variable length encoded data stream generation apparatus and method [a camera system] for sequentially generating variable length encoded data or predetermined control data, sequentially coupling predetermined header bits of the generated data to the tail bit side of previously generated data, and sequentially outputting data of a predetermined data length from said header bit side of said coupled data, the variable length encoded data stream generation apparatus comprising a data adding means for generating adjustment data having a data length of a difference between a sum of data lengths of an input data and a feedback data and the data length of a whole multiple of a

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predetermined unit data length and adding the same to a header bit side of a control data; a data selecting means for selecting control data with an adjustment data added thereto or the variable length encoded data in accordance with a selection signal; and a data coupling means for coupling the header bit of the selected data of the data selecting means to a tail bit side of the feedback data and supplying the coupled data as a not yet output data to a data outputting means.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
3. Sprague et al. (US Patent Number 4,967,196) discloses an apparatus for decoding variable-length encoded data.
4. Astle (US Patent Number 5,552,832) discloses a run-length encoding sequence for video signals.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean B. Jeanglaude whose telephone number is 571-272-1804. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 A. M. - 5:00 P.M..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Tokar can be reached on 571-272-1812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jean Bruner Jeanglaude  
Primary Examiner  
April 29, 2005